



[George Padmore, 1903 - 1959](#)

## George Padmore

[George Padmore](#) was born in Trinidad, in the West Indies. After studying in the USA he spent four or five years, from 1929, based in the Soviet Union, heading the Negro Bureau of the Communist International of Labour Unions (a.k.a. Profintern, or RILU). This organisation held a [First International Conference of Negro Workers](#) in Hamburg, Germany on July 7-8, 1930. South Africans W Thibedi and Moses Kotane were elected to the Executive Committee of the organisation at this conference.

In London from 1934, Padmore teamed up with his contemporary and fellow-Trinidadian [C L R James](#), forming the International African Services Bureau.

Padmore organised the [5<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress](#), in Manchester, England, in 1945. This famous Congress was also attended by Kwame Nkrumah, W E B Du Bois, and Jomo Kenyatta, among others, including a young white man called Norman Atkinson,

who later became a Labour member of the British Parliament.

After Ghanaian independence in 1957, Padmore moved there to serve under Nkrumah, but died in 1959.

There is a web site dedicated to Padmore, [here](#), and there is a section within the Marxists Internet Archive for Padmore, [here](#).

Apart from the texts that we have of Padmore's - such as in the attached document - for the purposes of this course Padmore's story can serve to show that the many National Democratic Revolutions that subsequently took place in Africa had common, inter-twining roots, and those roots were not far from the Great October Revolution in Russia in 1917, the founding of the Communist International (Comintern) in 1919, and the founding of the Communist Party of South Africa in 1921.

As usual, the best remedy for the varying and contradictory interpretations that can be found, of the life of a revolutionary like Padmore, is to read the person's own work. The downloadable selection given here contains work written in Padmore's Profintern days, and also during the Anti-Fascist War when he was in Britain, anticipating the "dollar imperialism" that would follow that conflict.

Padmore brings us from the time of Sol Plaatje through the 1920s and 1930s to the war years and into the great post-war season of national liberation of colonies all over the world.

- The above serves to introduce the original reading-text: [Selections from the writings of George Padmore](#).
- To download any of the CU courses in PDF files [please click here](#).